

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

April 10, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Republican Leader
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Democratic Leader
U.S. Senate

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Republican Leader McCarthy, Majority Leader McConnell, and Democratic Leader Schumer:

I am grateful for the measures we have taken to provide critically needed health care and financial assistance to Americans during this public health emergency. While we achieved a lot in the first three phases of the COVID-19 economic recovery, we must do more to help our constituents get back on their feet. In my March 20th letter, I outlined South Carolina Lowcountry priorities for the last legislative package. I was happy to see many of those provisions incorporated into the CARES Act. As I continue to talk with my constituents, it is clear we need to further address persisting gaps and include sectors unintentionally left out of our efforts. As part of Stage IV, I ask you to consider these legislative fixes and corrections to support residents and businesses in my district.

I urge you to consider expanding my last request to include:

Protecting the Hospitality & Tourism Industry

Expand the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP). While we agree that there is bipartisan support to increase funding for PPP, we can work to address some of the immediate concerns. Expand eligibility for the program to 501(c)(6) organizations; Expand funding to cover payroll costs for up to three months after establishments can reopen; and allow loans to mature in 10 years rather than only 2 years.

Protect our Healthcare Workers and First Responders

Ensure that hospitals and healthcare workers have what they need. Develop or expand hospitals' isolation capabilities; Expedite the \$100 billion under the Public Health and Emergency Services Fund to rural and urban hospitals; and increase the procurement of additional Personal Protection Equipment for facilities.

Expand Support for all Small Businesses

Encourage the Small Business Administration to waive its "Affiliation Rule." Under the current affiliation rule, separate small businesses backed by the same venture capital firm are considered

affiliated and their employee count aggregated. This means that many small businesses that otherwise would qualify for the SBA 7(a) loans will fall through the cracks, since venture capital firms often back multiple small businesses at once.

Expand Support for our Small Cities and Municipalities

Permit smaller localities to receive direct stabilization funding through the CARES Act. All of the localities in the Lowcountry are under the 500,000-population limit for direct funding. Our cities should not be excluded from critical funding needed to keep their economies stable.

Protect our Uniformed Servicemembers

Provide hazard pay to medical professionals in the uniformed service responding to COVID-19. The House should pass H.R. 6439, the “Pandemic Hazard Pay Expansion Act,” which would expand hazard pay to servicemembers whose duties involve frequent exposure to a cause of a declared public health emergency.

We have a long road to recovery after this crisis is over. This requires us to work together to lead Americans back to prosperity. It is important to ensure that we pass bipartisan legislation that puts the health, safety and welfare of our residents and small businesses first.

I hope you will take these items into strong consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Joe Cunningham". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Joe Cunningham
Member of Congress